Quantum of Rice supplied by FCI to Orissa

491. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice supplied by the Food Corporation of India to Orissa during 2000 and 2001 as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the quality of rice is very poor and sub-standard;

(c) whether proper norms have not been followed in the allotment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) 853, 340 tonnes of rice in year 2000 and 2,89,162 tonnes of rice in year 2001 (January-June, 2001) was supplied to Orissa under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Good quality of rice free from insect, infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) norms are supplied under TPDS by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Wheat, Rice and Maize

492. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quality of wheat, rice and maize likely to be exported this year;

(b) whether in view of rejection of wheat shipments by Iraq facilities for upgradation and checking quality of wheat would be set up at ports;

(c) if so, the ports where this facility would be provided; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The quality of foodgrains exported depends on the specifications laid down by the importing countries.

(b) to (d) Some private parties have reportedly installed cleaning facilities for wheat at some ports. FCI has also been instructed to set up cleaning facilities at Kandla or any other port from which export takes place.

Distribution of Sugar at Cheaper rate

493. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited views of all the State Governments on a proposal for distribution of sugar at cheaper rates through the Ration Shops to the poor person in the country by decontrolling sugar industry fully;

(b) if so, the response thereto; and

(c) the steps propose or to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government of India solicited the views of the Government of the surplus sugar producing States as well as the sugar deficit States on whether sugar distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) should continue even after complete decontrol of sugar and if so, the modalities thereof. The majority of the States have suggested that the distribution of sugar under PDS should continue even after the complete decontrol of sugar. As regards the modalities of such distribution, different views have been expressed.

(c) Levy sugar distribution under the Public Distribution System is presently continuing.

Discontinuance of rice supply to Traders

494. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after having accepted the bids from the traders in the non-rice procuring State for selling the overflowing rice stock in Punjab godowns, the supply of rice to the traders was abruptly discontinued by FCI;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the quantity of rice supplied by FCI to each of the trader whose bids were accepted as against the committed supply;